

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful examination of this application and respectfully requests the entry of the amendments indicated hereinabove.

Claims 1-12 and 22 are pending and rejected. The Applicants note an apparent error in the Office Action. Namely, Claim 22, which is part of the claim set for Group 1 (see page 2 of the Election/Restriction, see also the Applicant's Election dated 8-26-04) was omitted from the Summary and Detailed Action.

Independent Claim 1 positively recites a switching circuit intercoupled between the second p-type region and ground. These advantageously claimed features are not taught or suggested by the patent granted to Ker et al.

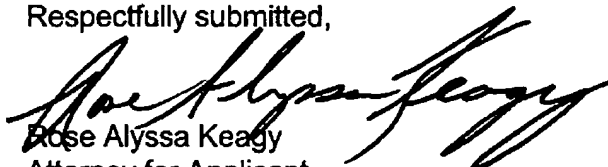
The Applicant respectfully traverses the statement in the Office Action (page 3) that Ker et al. teaches "a switching circuit including a MOSFET with a source/drain region intercoupled between the second p-type region and the ground (VSS). See FIG. 24A." The Applicant submits that FIG. 24A does not show a switch between 322 and VSS (if anything the 'switch' is between 322 and AR2, which is between the second p-type region and the first p-type region).

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully asserts that Claim 1 is patentable over the patent granted to Ker et al. Furthermore, Claims 2-12 are allowable for depending on allowable independent Claim 1 and, in combination, including limitations not taught or described in the references of record.

Independent Claim 22 is not rejected in the Office Action. Claim 22 positively recites a switching structure, intercoupled between the second p-type region and ground, and adapted to ground the second p-type region during normal operation of the semiconductor device. These advantageously claimed features are not taught or suggested by the patent granted to Ker et al. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully asserts that Claim 22 is patentable over the patent granted to Ker et al.

For the reasons stated above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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